

**Remarks and Claim Amendments**

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 7-12 and 19-24 have been allowed.

Claims 1-6 and 13-18 were rejected in the instant Office Action. With this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 13-18 have been canceled without prejudice as to further prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in other applications such as continuations, continuations-in-part and divisionals. Accordingly, claims 7-12 and 19-24 remain pending.

**Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,963,536. Claims 1-6 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO-99/41738. With the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 and 13-18 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

With the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 and 13-18 have been canceled. Applicants note that claims 7-12 and 19-24 have been allowed. Therefore, Applicants submit that all claims are now in a condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and issuance of this application as amended herein. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

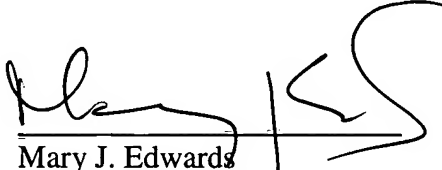
Applicants also include a petition for a one-month extension of time to extend the period for response up to and including March 15, 2005. An authorization to charge the associated fee of \$60.00 to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219 accompanies this response.

Applicants include a photocopy of the Revocation and Creation of Power of Attorney with a Change of Correspondence Address, as received by the U.S. Patent and

Trademark Office on May 6, 2003, and respectfully request all future correspondence be sent to customer number 23483, to the attention of Mary J. Edwards.

No other fees are believed to be due in connection with this submission.  
However, please charge any fees that might be due or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 15, 2005  
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